

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the courage and Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

MERRITT

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor the courage and Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

Whereas, The USS Indianapolis was commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard November 15, 1932, and, on July 30, 1945, while sailing from Guam to Leyte Gulf, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine;

Whereas, When torpedoed, the USS Indianapolis was returning from its assignment to deliver components for the world's second and third atomic bombs to the island of Tinian;

Whereas, The USS Indianapolis capsized and sank in 12 minutes;

Whereas, Of the original 1,196 men on board, approximately 300 went down with the ship;

Whereas, The remaining sailors were left with very

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few lifeboats and struggled to survive in shark infested waters;

Whereas, On August 2, 1945, while flying a routine antisubmarine patrol in the area, Lieutenant Wilbur C. Gwinn spotted the survivors;

Whereas, By the end of the search on August 8, 1945, only 316 survivors were found;

Whereas, In a highly controversial proceeding, Captain Charles McVay III, the captain of the USS Indianapolis and one of the survivors, was court-martialed and convicted of "hazarding his ship by failing to zigzag", making him the only captain to be court-martialed for losing a ship in combat;

Whereas, In October 2000, President Clinton signed legislation exonerating Captain McVay, and the Navy conceded that Captain McVay, was innocent of any wrongdoing;

Whereas, The sinking of the USS Indianapolis remains the worst U.S. Naval disaster in history and the worst loss of life from shark attack in naval history; and

Whereas, Keeping the memory of the USS Indianapolis and her valiant crew alive is of the utmost importance: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*



1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana State Senate honors the members of
2 the USS Indianapolis and remembers the brave sailors who lost their
3 lives.

4 SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy
5 of this resolution to Paul J. Murphy, chairman of the board of the USS
6 Indianapolis Survivors Organization.

